

tory reason for its appearance or disappearance has ever been given. The disease was most prevalent in the latter part of February. For the week ending January 30 there were 38 interments and in the week ending February 6th there were 33. In all there were

400 deaths in the city. The ravages of the disease were chiefly among the young. Two of the city's physicians stayed throughout this fearful ordeal and the labors of Drs. R. Ottman and Charles Burr were unceasing if not always successful. The D. & H. brought two prominent physicians here from New York, Drs. Diaper and White, but they stayed only a few days and their

coming was valueless. Many of the families of the town fled to other places and the local authorities adopted various measures to stop the spread of the disease. Large quantities of tar were burned on the public square without any effect. The disease was generally ushered in by a chill. The average duration of the fatal cases was about 48 hours. In the few post mortem examinations made intense congestion of the blood vessels of the brain were found. Rev. T. S. Ward, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, was unceasing in his ministrations to the sick and finally succumbed to the disease on February 13. He came here in 1851 and the present church is a monument to his work although the dedication did not occur until August 31st, 1865, eighteen months after his death. A tablet on the wall of the church erected by the children of the Sabbath school is a token of the estimation in which he was held. It is said of him that when the collections for special purposes ran short he would make them up himself.

#### EDITING A NEWSPAPER.

Amzi Wilson came to Carbondale from Dundaff at the solicitation of the few merchants then doing business here. He was the editor of Carbondale's first paper, the *Northern Pennsylvanian*, and his subscription list rose from 500 in Dundaff to 700 in this city. In those days there were no mail facilities, but a rider on horseback delivered the papers in Clifford, Herrick, Abington, Benton, Gibson, Lenox and other townships, taking three days to make the distribution. The merchants paid liberally for the papers but money



REV. T. S. WARD.

was scarce in the country districts and at times, it is said, he got hardly enough cash to pay for the white paper used. He died in 1872.

In the first issue of the *Northern Pennsylvanian* appeared the following marriage notice:

At Sand Lake, N.Y., on the 27th of November, 1832, by the Rev. Dr. Gregory, James Archibald, Esq., Engineer-in-Chief of the D & H Canal Co., at Carbondale, to Miss Sara Augusta Temple Frothingham, of the former place.

In the issue of March 11, 1837, there was scarcely a local item, but among the ads. were those of Gillespie & Pierce, J. Benjamin & Co., Martin Curtis, Dr. Sweet, Stephen Clarke, Harvey Hackley and Eggleston & Wilbur. The latter announce that they will sell coal-stoves at the Luzerne Co. Steam Foundry; also firedogs, drag teeth, caldron kettles and jewsharps. They also repaired clocks on the shortest notice. The Carbondale tannery advertised for "15 or 20" teams to cart leather from the tannery to New York.

At that time justices of the peace were named by the governor. In order to give Mr. Wilson some help outside of his paper Mapes, Eggleston, Goff, Poor and others applied to the governor for his appointment. Mr. Blanchard, who was the only justice, opposed his appointment on the ground that he had not lived in the county a year. It was effectual, but as soon as the year expired his appointment was made.

#### ON SPIRITUALISM.

About 1850 a great excitement over spiritualism sprang up in Carbondale. Quite a number were converts to its manifestations and at many houses gatherings were had where rappings, table turnings, piano playing and other remarkable things took place.

Finally mediums were found through whom spirits preached sermons to such as congregated to hear them. Cambrian hall was for a time rented for that purpose and Clark Corby, an eccentric youth, was the preaching medium. At length three of our

citizens became so filled with mesmerism that they started out on a lecturing tour. One was a clairvoyant, one a mesmerist who gave practical demonstrations and the other was the lecturer. In 1853 C. M.



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